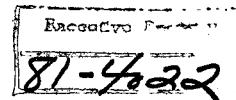


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16 April 1981

OS REGISTRY

FILE Sec 18
Comm 14B

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

Special Assistant to the DCI for Compartmentation

SUBJECT: Compartmentation of Codewords

25X1

1. This memorandum is to report that COCOMP has been unable to reach agreement on any change in procedure regarding codewords. I have, consequently, ended the efforts to structure, review or otherwise limit the creation of, or to establish rules for, compartmented codewords, project names, project indicators, cover names, nicknames, or surrogates therefor.

2. Background

As a compromise, the NFIB Final Report on Compartmentation directed that codewords could be classified but not compartmented. When the former DCI, in November 1980, called for APEX issue papers, this prohibition was denounced by the collectors of SCI. The former DCI apparently ruled on 12 January 1981 that program managers could "permissively" compartment codewords.

3. COCOMP began the process of pinning down that which the several NFIB members considered to be worth preserving outside of the APEX context. The OSD and Security Committee members again vigorously raised codeword compartmentation as an objectionable and costly practice. Each provided a paper (available in my files) opposing compartmentation of any codeword, however defined. These papers were circulated among the COCOMP members but changed no one's mind.

4. I then ruled that the matter had been settled on 12 January and would not be reopened unless an NFIB principal or observer would obligate himself to raise the question again at NFIB. No one has made such a commitment to date. I declared, consequently, the objection to compartmentation of codewords to be a dead issue.

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25X1 5. [] led the 12 January discussion on behalf of compartmented codewords and in the process expressed the need to justify the compartmentation of each codeword. Various backbenchers interpreted Dr. 25X1 [] remarks in diverse and conflicting ways. A draft procedure along the line apparently proposed by [] for the review of compartmented codewords was floated in the COCOMP. It satisfied no one, and modification of the draft is not likely to result in a consensus. The idea is too extreme in the view of those who support compartmented codewords and would not begin to achieve the prohibitions desired by those in opposition. I also declared, consequently, that the issue of rules is closed to COCOMP. [] 25X1

6. The closing of this issue will not prevail. You should expect Army, Air Force, OSD and DIA to object to codeword compartmentation practices at every opportunity. The pitch will probably be that compartmentation of codewords is expensive and should not be permitted without a cost benefit analysis demonstrating commensurate value. I consider such an approach to be extremely dangerous to all security practices because no one has ever, in my view, been able to present effectively a cost benefit analysis that conclusively demonstrates the marginal benefit of one among alternative security measures. [] 25X1

7. The other major point of the pitch will probably continue to be that the very fact that the Community and its supporting industrial base must, in order to operate, establish unclassified surrogates for codewords, however defined, is conclusive evidence that the enhanced protection achieved by compartmenting codewords is a myth and farce. [] 25X1

25X1 8. Nevertheless, with your concurrence and barring intervention by an NFIB member or observer, I shall not allow further COCOMP effort on this problem. []

CONCUR:

/s/ B. R. Inman

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

16 APR 1981

Date

SA/DCI []

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2